



Dear members and friends of Wildflower Church:

As I move into my third year as your minister, I reflect once again on all the amazing accomplishments that have marked past this year. I hope you will celebrate with me as you remember such events as the following:

- Over ninety people attended the Search for the Weekend workshop last September, the result of which is a rich and powerful mission statement: "Wildflower Church is a deliberately inclusive, open-minded religious community in the Unitarian Universalist tradition. We joyfully nurture one another on our lifelong spiritual journeys, and commit to transforming ourselves and the world around us through acts of compassion, love, and social justice."
- Our website has been excellently and professionally revamped by our communications crew.
- Thanks to DRE Penny Burnette, and four wonderful teachers, middle schoolers and high school youth completed the healthy sexuality program, Our Whole Lives.
- Ongoing Sunday school classes have been running year-round as a means of providing adults opportunities for religious education.
- A new form of small group ministry, Connections Circles, has been taking shape and will launch this fall.
- A newly formed Strategic Planning Committee has worked diligently with committees to create our vision for the next three years.
- Last November, in our second annual Great Weigh-In, we once again collected over 3,000 pounds worth of food, which we delivered directly to the Our Lady of Guadalupe Church food pantry on the city's east side.
- In a nearly unanimous vote last December, we called ourselves to become a member congregation of Austin Interfaith, an institution-based community organizing network that empowers citizens to voice their needs and concerns to district, local, and statewide officials, and to bring about change for the common good.
- In January, over forty Wildflowers attended a leadership training, led by the Leadership Development Task Force, which has additionally hosted several potluck gatherings to discuss different means of practicing healthy leadership.
- In February, over eight members of Wildflower Church attended the First International Convocation of Unitarian Universalist Women in Houston.
- In April, four Wildflower members and I traveled to Tulsa to participate in the UUA-sponsored Toward a Multicultural-Multiracial Future Conference.
- In the spring, the Committee on Ministry created and led a church-wide assessment survey, which has enabled us to see where our strengths are and where we are still challenged in meeting the needs of our members and friends.

- In late May, ten Wildflower members and I traveled to Galveston, where we worked for a week at the Sunlight Baptist Church doing hurricane recovery work.
- And finally—*yeehaw!!*—a building committee has taken off and is in *active* search for a home of our own!!

Beloved people, this is what *you* have accomplished. *You* have shown yourselves and your community that together, we do indeed commit to transforming ourselves and the world around us through acts of compassion, love, and social justice. *You* have joyfully nurtured one another on our lifelong spiritual journeys. *You* have been in deep discernment about what it means to be deliberately inclusive and open-minded. For this, I thank you. You have made my second year at Wildflower Church one of growth, joy, exploration, discovery, and gratitude.

Now let us move forward into another year again knowing that together, all things are possible with a mission like ours. May we continue to grow our spirits as well as our membership, deepen our community as well as permanent home roots, and, as a team of agents for change, may we be the change we wish to see. In that spirit, I encourage you to give as generously as you are able in this year's stewardship campaign. We are, as I've said before, all that we have. We are the community and we are what makes the community work. So thank you, thank you, for your continued support of and dedication to *beloved* community. Let's have a very successful stewardship campaign and shout together, at its end, "Mission accomplished!"

Peace and blessings to all,

Rev. Eliza C. Galaher  
Minister, Wildflower Church